

Abstract

Apparatus and methods are provided for improving scalability of a storage system. In one embodiment, a storage system comprising a stand-alone storage element that is reconfigurable to improve storage performance features of the storage system. The storage element comprises a plurality of disk drives, each configured for storing data. The storage element also comprises a storage controller communicatively adapted for coupling to a host computer system and configured for processing I/O requests received from the host computer system. The storage controller is also adaptable to interface with another storage controller added to the storage system. When adapted to communicate with the other storage controller, the storage controller of the stand-alone storage element can route the I/O requests to the other storage controller through a switching fabric.